

AGENDA: May 27, 2003

4.12

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: Reauthorize County-Wide AB 939
Implementation Fee and County-Wide
Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Program Agreements

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute agreements with the County of Santa Clara for the County-wide AB 939 Implementation Fee and County-wide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program for the period of July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT

Program funding is included in the City's SMaRT Station® budget which includes revenues from tipping fees charged on each ton of waste generated from Mountain View properties that are landfilled in Santa Clara County. The program has been more successful than anticipated and, between 2000-03, the Council augmented funding by a total of \$61,000. Additional expenses in Fiscal Year 2002-03 can be covered in the Solid Waste Program budget; however, it is not clear, at this time, what costs will be for next year. Should the program continue to grow in popularity, a mid-year budget adjustment may be necessary.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The City is required under provisions of AB 939 (the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989) to implement and administer source reduction and recycling programs and to provide disposal of residential household hazardous waste (HHW). The City has participated in the County-wide programs, along with 14 other cities in the County since 1992. The current agreements expire on June 30, 2003. All cities and Santa Clara County must approve these agreements by June 30, 2003 to ensure the uninterrupted collection of the fee and the HHW program.

The HHW program is a successful, cooperative effort between the County and cities to provide legal, convenient and economical services for residents to dispose of paints, solvents, pesticides, cleaning chemicals, aerosols, automotive fluids and batteries, fluorescent lights, household batteries, propane and balloon tanks. Residents call the County HHW hotline at (408) 299-7300 anytime during the year to schedule an appointment at a permanent disposal facility and obtain information about safe alternative nontoxic products. The closest facility to Mountain View is next door to the SMaRT Station in Sunnyvale. A special event day for Mountain View residents is often scheduled near the end of the fiscal

year. The County coordinates public outreach; while the City advertises the program services in the quarterly *Resource* newsletter and in flyers hand-delivered by Foothill Disposal to each household.

The AB 939 funds are collected and administered by the County in the form of a tipping fee charged on each ton of waste landfilled in Santa Clara County. The revenues distributed to each city are based on the amount of landfilled tons generated within that city. Mountain View uses its revenues to fund recycling and HHW programs, primarily the year-round SMaRT Station (drop-off), but also the household battery program at the Terra Bella Recycling Center.

The AB 939 Implementation Fee Agreement provides continued collection of the tipping fee and increases it by \$0.55 per ton for a total of \$3.35 per ton. The proposed tipping fee increase will only maintain the current funding level as fewer tons are being landfilled due to the weak economy and aggressive recycling programs. Of the total fee, \$1.85 per ton will fund HHW services for 3 percent of households County-wide, and the remaining \$1.50 per ton will be paid to cities to fund existing recycling programs. Since Mountain View participation often exceeds the 3 percent level, the agreement allows us to augment funding above 3 percent to meet actual participation. In the past, the program has been so successful, the City Council approved funding to serve 4 percent to 5 percent of Mountain View households.

ALTERNATIVE

The City of Mountain View could conduct HHW collection programs independent of the County-wide HHW program, but it would be more costly than participating in the County program now that permanent facilities are available.

PUBLIC NOTICING—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Cynthia Palacio
Solid Waste Program Manager

Approved by:

Cathy R. Lazarus
Public Works Director

Kevin C. Duggan
City Manager

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cc: PWD, TPM, SWA, F/c